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## MESSAGE FROM: Greg Schmidt, CCSUA Chairman, SUP Regional Advisor

Hello Everyone,

As we move into the season, a couple of things have come to our attention. Umpires need to focus on umpiring and not get into long conversations or comments about players with coaches.

Refresh your focus on the illegal pitch. Read and own the definition of what constitutes an illegal pitch using the rule book verbiage. When a coach comes out to question your call, keep the conversation short and by the book.

As the teams improve during the season, we must also continue to study and be diligent on our own self-improvement. We are in this for the student athletes and the game.

Have a great season!

*Greg Schmidt*

CCSUA Chairman  
NCAA Softball Regional Advisor  
West/Pacific Region  
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## MESSAGE FROM: SUP National Coordinator Staff

Hello Everyone,

Hit by a pitch has now become an issue. Review the rule and quote the book verbiage if you have a situation arise during a game. Remember the river is shared territory and should be called accordingly. The whole ball needs to be in the batter's box for the definition of the rule to be enforced, "No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required; however, the batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch (see Rule 11.15.3.1)"

*Every pitch on every play, every time!*



*Greg Schmidt*

NCAA Softball Regional Advisor  
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## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE ASSIGNORS!!!!!!**

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE USING A DIAMOND SOFTBALL WHICH MIGHT HAVE 2 “model numbers”** on it or a stamp. Diamond ran out of a specific ball stamped with the Calif. Community College logo (CCCA) so they are using a different ball. Both are acceptable. This is what was sent to the coaches and athletic directors.

The Community College Commissioners would like you to play the game. Don't worry about what ball is used. If a coach brings up that there are 2 different balls used, tell them you will note it in the game report.... Note it in the game report, but send an email to Richard Kollen [dayofgame@me.com](mailto:dayofgame@me.com) (President of the CCC Commissioners organization).

### **PROTEST PROCEDURE...**

Please discuss in your pre-games with partners the procedures for protests. What if you get one, what do you do? We have a situation now that turned into a **“mushpot”** because the officials didn't follow procedures. So let's all look it up in the rule book and discuss with our partner(s) when we work this last month of the season.

Remember, once a coach says he or she wants to protest, we attempt to resolve the protest immediately during which a Rules book may be used (7.2.6.1).

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## **ASSIGNORS and TRAINING STAFF INFORMATION!**

### **From the Assignors**

### **BAT CHECKS...**

Must be done for **every game** of a doubleheader and also **every game** in a tournament. This is a complete, model-by-model check with the team's bat list (3.3.4). The only exception is when there is Bat Compression Testing and the bats are stickered (3.3.4.2).

**IF YOU ARE ASKED WHAT THE PENALTY OF SUSPENSION IS BY SOMEONE...**

The answer is that the Conference handles it. It is not in an umpire's jurisdiction to be involved with the suspension. If the ejection is for 13.3 or 13.4, the umpire shall notify the coach that is the reason for the ejection. That is all an umpire should state.

**LINE UP CARDS...**

We continue to have issues with lineup cards. The **COACH ONLY NEEDS TO WRITE THE LAST NAME OF THE PLAYER IN THE BATTING ORDER** if their first and last name are printed/ written at the bottom per rule 5.6 notes #3. Some coaches are writing only first name of the player.

**USE OF CAMERAS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE AND WHO CAN OPERATE THEM...**

In addition, read up on the rules about use of cameras and where and who can operate them. Fullerton is using a Go-Pro camera in the dugout and a player is operating it. Look up the rule and decide how you will rule on that.

**ILLEGAL PITCHES AT CS DOMINGUEZ HILLS.....**

"According to the coach".....no one has called illegal pitches on his pitcher until this week. I hope this is a new pitcher or what happened to all of you who have had CSDH? I'm going to look it up.

**"HIT by the Pitch" Intentional or Base Award Rule 11.15 (by Pitch).....**

There have been a large number of players who are getting hit by a pitched ball and awarded first base. This is a difficult call for the plate umpire, but one that requires the plate umpire to be ready on every pitch.

Pre-pitch the batter's location in the batter's box and how the catcher is setting up for the pitch. Review the rule and the effect for each situation that may arise when a batter gets hit by a pitch.

Watch and judge the following:

- Is the pitch over the plate?
- Is the pitch in the "river" that is neither completely in the batter's box nor over home plate?
- Did the batter make no attempt to avoid the pitch (unless the entire ball is in the batter's box) or did she obviously try to get hit by the pitch (regardless of location)?

In all of the above-mentioned cases the effect is the same:

- **Ball is Dead**
- **The pitch is a ball or strike and the batter remains at bat, except the batter is**

**declared out if the pitch was strike three or the batter is awarded first base if the pitch was “ball four”.**

**“When a batter obviously attempts to be hit by the pitch, she shall not be awarded first base unless the pitch is judged to be ball four.”**

- **Base runners advance if forced.**

When the pitch is entirely in the batter’s box and the batter does not obviously move into the pitch to initiate the contact then:

- If the batter did not swing at the pitch or the pitch was not called a strike, the batter need not attempt to avoid the pitch.
- It does not matter if the ball strikes the ground before hitting the batter.

**Effect:** The ball is dead. The batter is entitled to first base without liability to be put out. Base Runners may not advance unless forced.

The concept in determining the effect for a batter being hit with a pitch is:

- A pitch entirely over home plate belongs to the pitcher so she is rewarded with either a strike, if the ball would have been a strike or a ball.
- A pitch entirely in the batter’s box belongs to the batter so the batter who does nothing (neither swings nor initiates contact) is awarded first base.
- A pitch entirely in the river or partially over home plate or the batter’s box is in shared territory so the umpire must use judgment in applying the correct effect.

Pre-Pitch Preparation and Focus are not only the key to calling an accurate strike zone, but also judging whether the player who was hit by a pitched ball should be awarded first base or remain at bat.

*Joanne, Terry, Jim and Rich*

## **For CCSUA Training Staff**

### **Always bring ALL your Umpire Gear**

You never know when something might happen. This is extremely important but especially if you are working a 2-umpire game. Your plate umpire might have car trouble and arrive late. He or she might have washed the ball bags and forgot to put them back in the equipment bag. There are many things which might happen so be prepared. In an emergency you can switch positions. Make sure you call your assignor either before or immediately after the game and let him/her know.

### **There has been a recent interpretation about the use of Batting Cages**

**Play:** Home team is using their batting cage during the game. The visitors do not have a batting cage and their coach complains.

**Ruling:** Check the Locker Room – Rules Corner/The Game.

### **Recent actual plays**

Pitcher is taking the signal and has her pivot foot such that the heel of the shoe is raised above the plane of the plate as the toe of the shoe is on the ground. No part of the shoe is on the top surface of pitcher's plate. Is this legal or is it an illegal pitch? See the Locker Room – Rules Corner/Pitching

Batted ball tips F5's glove in fair territory and rolls past 3b in foul ground. Coach touches the live ball thinking it is foul ball as the batter-runner runs to first base. Is this coach's interference or since it probably has no effect on the play, do you ignore it? See the Locker room – Rules Corner/Batter Runner and Runners.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT CORNER

In life we all have choices: some for the better and some for the worse. Think twice, three times, before making a choice in words and deeds.

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## FOCUS AND PREPARTION

In the April 2015 issue of Referee Magazine, Mr. Doug Day, a veteran official writes an article about “When We Can't Get it Right.” Here are a couple of paragraphs from this article that I found very insightful for all officials:

“Bad calls. They keep us awake at night and sometimes come back years later to haunt us in our dreams. There might be a big argument or maybe you're the only one who knows you got it wrong. Doesn't really matter. Our job is to get it right and we hate it when we don't.

The bad ones stick with us. That's good, so long as we take the right things away from the experience.

When you've kicked a call, **YOU NEED TO OWN IT! ADMIT IT AND GET THE GAME MOVING AGAIN. NO EXCUSES!** Don't compound the problem and wreck your credibility by covering it up. It's hard to argue with someone who says, “Sorry, I was wrong and I feel terrible about it.”

Then, put it away. Dwelling on it will just make things worse as you distract yourself from doing your job the rest of the game. There is nothing you can do about the blown call anyway-don't add to your problems by blowing another one.

After the game, take some time to learn from it. Why did you miss it? Was it bad mechanics, lack of hustle, poor concentration, rules knowledge or your conditioning? What are you going to do to prevent it from happening again?

And finally, share it. Talking about your experience will help you deal with it and seal the lessons learned in your mind. And you could prevent someone else from going through the same thing. When you think about it, isn't the casebook just a collection of plays that other people have gotten wrong?

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## RULES CORNER

Kudos to all who continue to read and respond to our newsletter's quizzes. The Assignors thank you for your diligent pursuit of becoming a better umpire by continuing to gain rules knowledge through all the quizzes that are available for you through our CSUW Training Staff, as well as, the SUP.

Thank you to the following umpire: Dennis Allen, Joe Campanella, Dan Cowan, Mark Craver, Tom Duarte, Pete Dufour, Ed Earle, David Florentino, Anthony Garcia, Katrina Gonzalez, Ruben Gonzalez, Erik Geierman, Rick Hausvik, Herb Huitt, Richard Kaniho, Steve Kayo, Gene Kesweder, Mark Korras, John Miller, Bill Plante, Don Postle, Robert Pratt, Jason Robinson, Mario Romero, Jeffery Samuels, Jim Sanderson, Robert Schordy, Bill SmithMartin Vandenberg, , Glenn Waggoner, James Walker, George Whitmer and Steve Wilson.

Here are the answer to March's questions:

1. Left Handed Batter, "Slapper" is batting. As the batter goes to slap the ball between 3rd and Shortstop, she ends up way out front of home plate. On the pitch, the 1st baseman is moving aggressively toward the plate in case the ball is hit in her direction. The BR and 1st baseman collide with each other. **Rule 9.4.1 and 9.5.2.1.**
2. During an uncharged conference for the purpose of either a defensive or offensive substitution, are baserunners restricted to the vicinity of their base? **Rule 6.10.3**

### This month's scenarios:

1. With base runners on first and second bases with two outs, the batter hits a ground ball to right field. The base runner from second base is obstructed going home as the throw is coming to the plate (she would clearly have scored). However she collides with the third baseman and manages to scramble safely back to third base. Meanwhile, the throw to the plate gets by the catcher. The catcher retrieves the ball and throws to third base in time to tag out the trailing runner who is also on third base.

Is the obstructed runner awarded home, although the trailing runner was put-out at 3<sup>rd</sup> base for the third out of the inning?

2. The pitcher puts her front foot on the pitcher's plate and looks to the catcher who by her hand/arm movements apparently gives the pitcher the signal. The pitcher then steps on the pitcher's plate with her rear foot assuming a legal position, brings her hands together and begins the pitch. Is this a legal pitch?

For both questions, please send an email to [kellie.sturgis@att.net](mailto:kellie.sturgis@att.net), explaining your call and the Rule reference.

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## GAME MANAGEMENT

We want to hear from you!

Let us know in a brief statement (no more than two paragraphs) on what you feel is one of the most important aspect of Game Management. We will post a couple of responses in our next month's newsletter. Send your email to [kellie.sturgis@att.net](mailto:kellie.sturgis@att.net).

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**Knowledge is Power and Experience is the best teacher.**

